REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. This preliminary amendment modifies claims 1, 4-5, 7, 10-15, 17-18, 20-25, and 27-30 and the specification to clarify the subject matter that Applicant claims. The claims, as modified, are supported by the specification and figures as filed. The amendment to the specification merely clarifies material that was inherent to the specification as filed. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning on page 12, at line 20 has been amended as follows.

The above description of illustrated embodiments of the invention, including what is described in the abstract, is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. While specific embodiments of, and examples for, the invention are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications are possible within the scope of the invention, as those skilled in the relevant art will recognize. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that inasmuch as the interface identifier is generated as the ISUP layer, it is independent of the physical media through which the channel is created. Thus, the teachings of the present invention are readily implemented in wired or wireless communications systems.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A network comprising:

a first node[,] having a first point code, and a first switching element to selectively couple the first node to other nodes through one or more communication channels; and

a second node[,] having a second point code, and a second switching element to establish a first communication channel with the first node, the second node to identify the first communication channel with an identifier that includes, at least, the first point code [associated with the first node] and the second point code [associated with the second node].
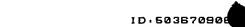
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4.   (Amended)   The network of claim 2, wherein [the wherein] the second node further comprises a [second] third point code.

5.   (Amended)   The network of claim 4, wherein the second node establishes a second communication channel with the first node, identified by a second identifier that includes the first point code [associated with the first node] and the [second] third point code [associated with the second node].

7.   (Amended)   The network of claim 6, wherein the second node has a second network identifier to identify a second network, and establishes a third communication channel identified by an identifier that includes [one of the two point codes associated with the second node] either the second point code or the third point code and the second network identifier.

10.   (Amended)   A node comprising:

a switching element to selectively couple the node to a communication channel with [another] an other node; and

a communication channel identifier agent (CCIA) coupled to the switching element to identify the communication channel, the CCIA [to include] including one or more [originating point codes (OPCs)] origination identifiers, the one or more [OPCs] origination identifiers to identify the node, and [one or more] a destination [point codes (DPCs)] identifier, the [one or more DPCs] destination identifier to identify [one or more remote nodes] the other node, the CCIA to use at least one of the one or more [OPCs] origination identifiers and [one of the one or more DPCs] the destination identifier to identify the communication channel.

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11.   (Amended)   The node of claim 10 wherein, the origination identifiers are originating

point codes (OPCs), the destination identifier is a destination point code (DPC), and the CCIA

creates an interface identifier [(IntfID)], the [IntfID] interface identifier including, at least, one of

the one or more OPCs and [one of] the [one or more DPCs] DPC.

12.   (Amended)   The node of claim 11 wherein the [IntfID] interface identifier further

includes a network identifier, the network identifier to identify a network to which the switching

element is to connect.

13.   (Amended)   The node of claim 12 wherein the CCIA is to identify a communication

channel from the node to [another] the other node, with an identifier that [is] represents a

combination of the [IntfID] interface identifier and a circuit identification code (CIC).

14.   (Amended)   A method comprising:

       creating a first interface identifier, the first interface identifier [including] representing at

least a first [originating point code (OPC) designating] origination identifier to identify a first

node and a [destination point code (DPC) designating] destination identifier to identify a second

node; and

       combining the first interface identifier with a circuit identification code (CIC) to identify

a communication channel between the first node the second node.

15.   (Amended)   The method of claim 14 further comprising:

creating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier [including] representing at least a second [OPC designating] origination identifier to identify the first node and the [DPC designating] destination identifier to identify the second node; and

combining the second interface identifier with the CIC to identify a second communication channel between the first node and the second node.

17.   (Amended)   The method of claim 16 wherein the first node implements the Common Channel Signaling System No. 7 (SS7) protocols to manage the first communication channel and the second communication channel; and

the first and second origination identifiers are originating point codes and the destination identifier is a destination point code.

18.   (Amended)   The method of claim [16] 17 further comprising:

creating a third interface identifier, the third interface identifier including at least one of the two originating point codes (OPCs) designating the first node, a second destination point code (DPC) designating a third node, and a second network identifier to identify a network containing the third node; and

combining the third interface identifier with the CIC to identify a third communication channel between the first node and the third node.

20.   (Amended)   A method comprising:

receiving an [originating point code (OPC)] origination identifier to identify a node;

receiving a destination [point code (DPC)] identifier to identify [another] an other node; and

generating an interface identifier to identify a communication channel between the node and the other node, the interface identifier [including] representing at least [the OPC] the origination identifier and [the DPC] the destination identifier.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20 further comprising:

receiving a circuit identification code (CIC); and

employing the interface identifier and the CIC to identify [a] the communication channel between the node and the [another] other node.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising:

receiving a second [OPC] origination identifier, the second [OPC] origination identifier to alternatively identify the node; and

generating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier including at least the second [OPC] origination identifier and the [DPC] destination identifier.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising employing the second interface identifier and the CIC to identify a second communication channel between the node and the [another] other node.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising:

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receiving a first network identifier to identify a first network and a second network

identifier to identify a second network;

generating a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier including at least

the [OPC] origination identifier, [DPC] destination identifier, and second network identifier; and

employing the second interface identifier and the CIC to identify a communication

channel between the node and a node in the second network.

25.   (Amended)   The method of claim 24 wherein the node is implementing the Common

Channel Signaling System No. 7 (SS7) protocols to manage the communication channels: and

     the origination identifiers are originating point codes and the destination identifier is a

destination point code.

27.   (Amended)   An article of manufacture comprising:

an electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or

more processors, cause the one or more processors to

     receive an [originating point code (OPC)] origination identifier to identify a node;

     receive a [destination point code (DPC)] destination identifier to identify [another] an

other node; and

     generate an interface identifier, the interface identifier including at least the [OPC]

origination identifier and the [DPC] destination identifier.

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28.   (Amended)   The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or more processors cause the one or more processors to

    receive a circuit identification code (CIC); and

    employ the interface identifier and the CIC to identify a communication channel between the node and the [another] other node.

29.   (Amended)   The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or more processors cause the one or more processors to

    receive a second [OPC] origination identifier, the second [OPC] origination identifier to alternatively identify the node; and

    generate a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier [including] representing at least the second [OPC] origination identifier and the [DPC] destination identifier.

30.   (Amended)   The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the electronically accessible medium providing instructions, that when executed by one or more processors cause the one or more processors to

    receive a first network identifier to identify a first network and a second network identifier to identify a second network;

    [make] generate a second interface identifier, the second interface identifier including at least the [OPC] origination identifier, [DPC] destination identifier, and second network identifier; and

employ the second interface identifier and the CIC to identify a communication channel

between the node and a node in the second network.

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